

WESTERN NEWS

April 26,02

Is CAG a watchdog group or an EPA PAC?

To the Editor:

After reading in a number of newspapers about Libby's CAG writing to and going to Washington, D.C., in order to express their sympathy for the old line funding of the EPA by direct tax into the EPA's budget instead of having the EPA go to Congress, justify their spending and seek appropriations; causes me concern over

whether CAG is a communitybased watchdog or an EPA PAC, that should register as a Political Action Committee and tell the world who is feeding them nonsense about the EPA going broke?

All that has changed is that the EPA comes under the scrutiny of Congress. No more million dollar ad campaigns pushing their own preconceived notions. We need more scrutiny of various government branches and their spending habits, not less. And the EPA still has a \$1.8 billion budget. However, their off book carte blanche credit card is down to \$28 million, from \$3.6 billion. Good!

And if their budget is paid by individuals or corporations, who send it into the General Treasury instead of directly to the EPA, what difference does it make to the individual? None, unless you appreciate having a bureaucracy justify its expenditures

Rob Uithof